

Frequently Asked Questions: Examinations

1. How do I know what examination I will need to take?

The credential being requested as well as each applicant's situation and qualifications vary. Therefore, a full evaluation must be completed before a determination of what examination will be required is made. To get an understanding of the examination modules that may be required, you can view our Examination Guides published for specific regulations as follows:

- A mariner seeking an original national endorsement or raise of grade based on training or service started before March 24, 2014, will be examined under the regulations and policy in effect before that date unless they have specifically requested to examine for their endorsement under current regulations and policy. The specific examination required can be found in the [Guide for Administration of Merchant Marine Examinations \(Deck & Engineering Guide\)](#) dated June 2011.
- A mariner seeking an original national endorsement or raise of grade based on training or service started on or after March 24, 2014, will be examined under the current regulations and policy. The specific examination required can be found in the [Deck and Engineering Guide for the Administration of Merchant Marine Examinations](#) dated August 2014.

In some situations, [courses](#) can be taken in lieu of these examination requirements.

2. What do I need to study for my upcoming examination and where can I locate study material?

Examination information for a mariner seeking an original national endorsement or raise of grade based on training or service started before March 24, 2014, who will be examined under the regulations and policy in effect before that date unless they have specifically requested to examine for their endorsement under current regulations and policy can be found by clicking [here](#).

Examination information for a mariner seeking an original national endorsement or raise of grade based on training or service started after March 24, 2014, and examining under current regulations and policy can be found by clicking [here](#).

3. I am studying for an upcoming examination and I am using the examination questions posted on your website. However, some illustrations being referred to are not listed, why?

Copyright laws prohibit the National Maritime Center (NMC) from posting certain illustrations on our [website](#). However, we do have the publisher(s) permission to use the illustrations on the examinations themselves. The NMC has reviewed all deck and engineering illustrations to determine which are releasable without violation of copyright laws. As a result, the NMC has posted all of the deck and 180 of the engineering illustrations on our website. At this time, the remaining engine illustrations (approximately 600) contain copyrighted materials.

4. How do I sign up to take an examination?

Before taking a Coast Guard Examination, you must be evaluated and sent an approval to test letter. After you receive your letter, examinations can be scheduled using our [online appointment scheduler](#). Select the Regional Exam Center where you want to examine and the examination you are approved for. Follow the instructions located on the website in order to complete the scheduling process.

5. While taking my examination I failed a module(s). When can I retake the module(s) I failed?

The retest policy is based on the requirements of 46 CFR 11.217 and 46 CFR 12.205, and can be found in the [Deck and Engineering Guide for the Administration of Merchant Marine Examinations](#) dated August 2014, and on the [NMC website](#).